

**TOWN OF RIDGEWAY
TOWN BOARD MEETING
FEBRUARY 16,2021**

THOSE PRESENT:

Brian Napoli
Jeffrey Toussaint
Mary Woodruff
David Stalker
Duane Payne

Town Supervisor
Councilman
Councilman (on phone)
Councilman
Councilman

John Olinger
Karen Kaiser
Laurie Kilburn
Patricia Laszewski
Kathy Bogan
Dan Wolfe

Highway Superintendent (on phone)
Town Clerk
Deputy Town Clerk (on phone)
Assessor (on phone)
Town Attorney (on Phone)
Code Enforcement Officer (on phone)

Catherine Cooper
Gabrielle Barone

Town Historian (on phone)
Economic Development (on phone)

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Napoli at 7 P.M. with the reciting of the pledge of allegiance.

RESOLUTION NO.26-2/16/2021

RESOLUTION: TO ACCEPT THE
AGENDA FOR THE FEBRUARY 16, 2021
MEETING.

Offered by Councilman Stalker who moved its adoption.
Seconded by Councilman Payne.

Adopted:

5 Yes

0 No

Resolved to accept the agenda for the February 16, 2021 Town Board meeting.

RESOLUTION NO.27-2/16/2021

RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES
OF THE JANUARY 19, 2020 TOWN
BOARD MEETING AS PRESENTED.

Offered by Councilman Woodruff who moved its adoption.
Seconded by Councilman Stalker.

Adopted:

5 Yes

0 No

Resolved to accept the Minutes for the Town Board meeting of January 19, 2020 as presented.

Resolved to approve the minutes of the organizational meeting held on January 5, 2021.

COMMUNICATIONS:

- A. DOS: Annual Code Enforcement Report- complete.
- B. Canal Corp.: Scoping Report.

Date of next meetings:

- Workshop: March 9, 2021, 7PM, Town Hall.
- Board Meeting: March 15, 2021,7PM, Town Hall.

Old Business:

Ridge Road bridge work has begun.

New Business:

RESOLUTION NO28-2/16/2021

RESOLUTION: ACCEPT THE YEAR IN REVIEW
REPORT FROM HISTORIAN CATHERINE
COOPER.

Offered by Councilman Stalker who moved its adoption.
Seconded by Councilman Toussaint.

Adopted:

5 Yes

0 No

Resolved, to accept the Year in Review report from Town of Ridgeway Historian Catherine Cooper who gave a small presentation and thanked the Town for the opportunity to serve the Town as well as the County of Orleans.

Town of Ridgeway 2020: Year in Review

A year that will forever be seared in our memories.

The year when everything changed, when all of our routines, rituals, traditions and customs were upended and transformed.

Unsettling news of a virus from China gathered force and exploded into our lives on March 13th. "Lockdown" Businesses closed. Schools closed. St. Patrick's Day Parades cancelled. Sports events cancelled.

On our screens every day, we saw images of swamped hospitals, overwhelmed morgues, exhausted medical staff swaddled in PPE. In May, Medina couple Martha and Bill Ames passed away of Covid, two days apart, at The Villages Health Center in Albion.

As the months went by, our seasonal rituals – 4H Fair, Summer Recreation programs, Parades, Festivals, Shows – all fell by the wayside.

We learned about "flattening the curve" and transmission rates. We came to appreciate first responders and frontline workers. We adapted to wearing masks, social distancing, Zoom meetings, virtual appointments, online learning, Insta-cart groceries. It was heartening but distressing to see lines of cars in line awaiting food distributions at the County Fairgrounds and at area schools.

In the fall, we were warned about the "fall surge", "micro clusters" and "super spreader" events. Our Thanksgivings and Christmas gatherings were quiet.

As of December 30, 2020, there were 1,342 cases confirmed in Orleans County, and 64 deaths.

Adaptation

At the Town of Ridgeway, staff revised procedures to protect employees and contractors while still continuing to offer public service. Complying with executive orders was a challenge. Providing cleaning and protective supplies was an unanticipated and not inexpensive budget strain, but the staff, not unlike the residents of the Town of Ridgeway, proved adaptable and resilient and soon, the new procedures became the norm. Budget uncertainty continued due to a marked decrease in sales tax revenues.

Surprisingly, the local real estate market was very active. Properties sold quickly and at high prices. In many cases, buyers were from outside the area.

Local restaurants, bars and small businesses were hard hit by the pandemic. Supply chain issues caused shortages of cleaning supplies, building supplies and appliances. As the months went by

businesses adapted, offering delivery when possible. Restaurants adapted to offering take-out service and outdoor dining.

The opening of navigation season on the Canal was delayed from May 15 until the week of July 4 as construction and repair activities were delayed by Covid.

The Canal Village Farmer's Market opened in June and again offered an array of fresh produce.

Discussion of the logistics of re-opening schools consumed much of the summer. Determined to provide in person teaching, the Medina Central School District plan involved smaller classes and accommodations for social distancing. Pre-K through Grade 6 classes resumed. Grade 7-12 students attend on alternate days and also participate in remote learning.

Not to be daunted by Covid, the Parade of Lights Committee re-adjusted the traditional Thanksgiving weekend activities so that families could still participate safely. The gala Parade was reversed, with spectators driving by the floats instead.

Awards

Mary Woodruff, Ridgeway Town Councilwoman, was awarded the Orleans Hub Outstanding Citizen award for her indefatigable work on the Hometown Banners project. The project, which began in 2019 with 38 banners, has garnered loyal support and an additional 69 banners were added in 2020, including one Civil War veteran, Henry Waters. This successful project will continue, an additional 43 will be added in 2021.

Bridges

Marshall Road Bridge closed on April 6, 2020 for a six-month long rehabilitation project.

People

The death of Raymond "Jack" Punch occurred January, 2020. Jack served as Town of Ridgeway Supervisor in 1987.

Constance Lyster, former Town of Ridgeway clerk, passed away March 20, 2020.

The community was stunned and saddened by the senseless death of a 20 year old Cheyenne Farewell at a Halloween party in Lockport on Fri. October 16. Six others were injured by gunshots fired.

Ridgeway Fire Dept.

The following slate of officers were installed on Jan. 25, 2020:

Chief: Patrick Kelly, *Deputy Chief:* Jason Bessel, *First Asst. Chief:* Kristin McAdoo

Harriet Petric was selected as Auxiliary Member of the Year.

Walk

A peaceful "Walk for Peace and Inclusion" was held on June 11 in support of the "Black Lives Matter" movement. Community members urged a reassessment of perceptions and prejudices.

Weather

January was the ninth warmest January on record, and March the seventh warmest March. February and June were above average. April and May were below average and just by one or two degrees. A spell of colder weather in May caused concern for fruit farmers.

In July, the National Weather Service Office in Buffalo confirmed what everybody felt: that July was hot, the hottest month in WNY's recorded weather history in fact, with an average daily temperature of 77.8. The month was persistently warm, July 10th marked the ninth straight day of 90 degree temperatures. A blistering 98 degrees was recorded at Buffalo Airport on July 9. A new splash pad at Pine Street Park brought some relief. Continuing the extreme weather trend, central Orleans County experienced a localized deluge on the afternoon on July 27, when 5-7 inches of rain overwhelmed drainage systems and caused localized flooding and many saturated basements.

November was particularly mercurial, with temperatures in the 70's on Nov. 10 and light snow showers on the 17th. December 25th was seasonally white.

Wishing our residents peace and good health.

Respectfully submitted,
Catherine Cooper
Historian

RESOLUTION: NO.29-2/16/2020

RESOLUTION: APPROVE THE WD#14 CLOSE-OUT AUTHORIZE THE SUPERVISOR TO SIGN

Offered by Councilman Toussaint who moved its adoption.
Seconded by Councilman Payne.

Adopted: 5 Yes 0 No

Resolved, to authorize Supervisor Napoli to sign the close-out of Wd#14.

RESOLUTION NO.30-2/16/2021

RESOLUTION: TO SET A PUBLIC HEARING FOR LOCAL LAW NO.1 OF 2020 TOWN OF RIDGEWAY BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM LOCAL LAW. FOR MARCH 15,2021 AT 7 P.M. AT THE RIDGEWAY TOWN HALL, AT WHICH TIME ALL INTERESTED PARTIES WILL BE HEARD.

Offered by Councilman Woodruff who moved its adoption.
Seconded by Councilman Toussaint.

Adopted:

5 Yes

0 No

Resolved, to set a Public Hearing, for local law No.1 of 2020. Town of Ridgeway Battery Energy Storage System for March 15,2021 at 7 P.M. at the Town of Ridgeway Town Hall at 7 P.M., at which time all interested parties will be heard.

RESOLUTION NO.31-2/16/2021

FIXING DATE AND NOTICE FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT APPLICATION

WHEREAS, THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF RIDGEWAY WISHES TO ASSESS THE ADVISABILITY OF SUBMITTING A COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT("CDBG") APPLICATION TO THE NEW YORK STATE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY RENEWAL (THE "OCR") FOR A GRANT TO SUPPORT AN EXPANSION BY VELOCITII LLC OF ITS OPERATION AT 711 PARK AVENUE WITHIN THE TOWN, AND

WHEREAS, THE TOWN OF RIDGEWAY IS REQUIRED TO HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING TO PROVIDE INFORMATION TO THE PUBLIC AND TO CONSIDER CITIZEN COMMENTS REGARDING COMMUNITY NEEDS AND THE PROJECT PROPOSAL PRIOR TO SUBMITTING AN APPLICATION FOR CDBG FUNDING.

Offered by Councilman Stalker who moved its adoption.
Seconded by Councilman Payne.

Adopted:

5 Yes

0 No

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby calls for a Public Hearing whereat all interested parties shall be heard regarding the CDBG program, the Town's community development and economic development programs, and the potential funding application. Such Public Hearing to be held on March 15, 2021, at 7:15 p.m. in the Town Hall, 410 West Avenue, Medina, New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, that at least eight (8) days' notice of such hearing shall be given by the Town Clerk by the due posting thereof in the Town Hall and on the Town's website, and by publishing such notice at least once in the official newspaper of the Town.

RESOLUTION NO.33-2/16/2021

RESOLUTION: CERTIFY PLANNING BOARD REFERRAL AND ASSIGNMENT OF PERMITS TO DG NEW YORK CSII (NEXT ERA)

Offered by Councilman Woodruff who moved its adoption.
Seconded by Councilman Toussaint.

Adopted:

5 Yes

0 No

Resolved, to certify Planning Board referral and assignment of permits to DG New York CSII (Next ERA).

RESOLUTION NO.34-2/16/2021

RESOLUTION: AUTHORIZE HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT TO SELL NEW HOLLAND B95 BACKHOE TO THE TOWN OF CARLTON FOR \$21,000.00

Offered by Councilman Stalker who moved its adoption.
Seconded by Councilman Payne.

Adopted:

5 Yes

0 No

Resolved, to authorize Highway Superintendent Olinger to sell the Holland B95 backhoe to the Town of Carlton for the sum of \$21,000.00

RESOLUTION NO.35-2/16/2021

RESOLUTION: AUTORIZING BOOKKEEPER
TO MAKE A BUDGET ADJUSTMENT FOR THE
2021 BUDGET.

WHEREAS, THE 2021 EXPENSE ACCOUNT
SW.8340.400, SOURCE AND SUPPLY, POWER
AND PUMPING, READS \$20,000 AND SHOULD
READ \$200,000.

Offered by Councilman Woodruff who moved its adoption.
Seconded by Councilman Toussaint.

Adopted:

5 Yes

0 No

Resolved, that this Town Board authorizes the Bookkeeper to adjust the budget line SW8320.400 from \$20,000 to the corrected \$200,000.

Other Business:

Fire Company Report (Read by Supervisor Napoli)

RIDGEWAY VOLUNTEER FIRE CO. INC



11392 Ridge Road
PO Box 816
Medina, NY 14103-0816
ridgewayfirecochester.ny.com



INCIDENT REPORT - JANUARY 2021

There were 38 calls for the month:

EMS - 29
Mutual Aid - 4
Hazardous Conditions - 2
MVA's - 2
Other - 1***

*** The County Coroner requested assistance in removing a 300 pound body from the bath tub who was Covid-Positive. Three firefighters responded to the scene, while six others were on stand-by at the fire station. After donning their special PPE per Covid regulations, the body was removal from the residence to a Middleport funeral director's vehicle. Time out: 65 minutes.

OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR 2021:

Chief - Pat Kelly
Deputy Chief - Kristin McAdoo
Assistant Chief - Tyler Luckman
Assistant Chief - Kyle Morgan

President - Don Marchner
Vice President - April Fearby
Treasurer - Jenn Thom

Department Reports-

Town Clerk Kaiser- Receiving 2021 Tax payments and making payments to the County of Orleans.
Answering many phone calls.

Assessor Laszewski- Trainee Cecchini has just completed and passed the 2nd part of Cost Market Income Class and has two more classes and will qualify for her Assessor Certification.

The Assessor's Office has been working on the updates. I would ask that everyone take a look at the website homesnap.com. You can search by zip code address or tax map# and you will be able to look at the property for sale, photos and selling prices, as well as the amount of time on the market. That way when asked about the updated values you will be able to better explain.

Although we have been in a pandemic property are not only selling, but selling quickly and above market value. Assessor trainee Cecchini has been doing an excellent job of tracking the sales.

Highway Superintendent Olinger- The Highway department has been plowing and we were cutting back trees when the weather was good. We also had a water leak on Marshall Road that had to be taken care of. Olinger stated that he had been in a Zoom meeting earlier where he was informed that the State of New York would be cutting the amount of CHIPS monies coming back to the Town of Ridgeway. Further stating that he would keep the Board informed.

Code Enforcement Officer Wolfe- Still closing out last years building permits slowly. Completed the 1203 Department of State report. Code training hours are still going to be required. Wolfe stated that he had taken a 4-hour training while in Yates and would continue to take them while at work and do the best he could to get them completed while in the office.

Town Attorney Bogan-Bogan stated that she would like the Supervisor to drop by her office on Thursday and sign the Pilot Agreement, further stating that it will be 1/3 to County, 1/3 to the School and 1/3 to the Town of Ridgeway. Bogan stated that she will be glad to get the pilots done as well as the Solar Battery Storage done. Bogan stated that there will be a solar farm between the Town of Shelby and Barre that will be 1200 acres the largest in New York State other than the Adirondacks. They will be 6ft off the ground and will telescope to follow the sun. They are no longer under article 10 they now have one year to complete windmills and the Governor wants New York State green by 2035.

Councilman Reports-

Councilman Toussaint- Nothing to add.

Councilman Payne- Nothing to add.

Councilman Stalker- Nothing to add.

Councilman Woodruff- Pretty slow right now.

Legislator Report- Supervisor Napoli asked Town Clerk Kaiser who had been on the Zoom meeting with the County to report.

Town Clerk Kaiser stated that Senator Ortt as well as Assemblyman Hawley were both work in bipartisan with some member of Government to try and have Governor Cuomo's Authority to be rescinded.

They are working very hard to make the Governor accountable for the nursing home deaths the happened due to his negligence. Governor Cuomo is also is trying to legalize Marijuana by placing it in the Budget for the state.

As there were no more questions or comments the Supervisor asked for a motion to pay the bills as presented.

Offered by Councilman Stalker who moved its adoption.
Seconded by Councilman Payne.

Adopted:

5 Yes

0 No

Abstract Total: \$82,885.22

The Supervisor made a motion to adjourn.

Offered by Councilman Toussaint who moved its adoption.
Seconded by Councilman Woodruff.

The Meeting was adjourned at 7:34 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen L. Kaiser
Town Clerk, RMC

